

We The People
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We the People 382 New Life and New Hope



Good day to you. The word **Renaissance** is used to describe a new birth or an awakening or a new era if you will. I use the word to describe a period or a moment of new ideas and a fresh start. These days we live in now represent difficult times where disease and corruption challenge our lives. However as the song says.... 'always look on the bright side' and so I have discovered a couple of uplifting and positive stories which are also a timely metaphor for life and the value of persistence. At a time marked by bad news events unfolding what lies in the crown of an old oak tree could offer a dose of optimism. Three pairs of white storks settled down to breed on the Knepp Estate in West Sussex, southern England in March 2020. On May 15, it was announced that the first chicks had hatched, the first to be born in Britain since a pair nested on the roof of St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh in 1416 which is over 600 years ago. This was no chance event, we the people owe this precious conservation breakthrough to the efforts of all those involved in the White Stork Project, who have released over 100 storks at three sites in southeast England. Wildlife, such as the storks and the white-tailed eagles reintroduced to the Isle of Wight in 2019, has provided a lockdown distraction. Both species have treated garden birdwatchers to spectacular sights as they've toured southern England. What a remarkable event as these birds breed after a 600 year absence and practical extinction in Britain. To some this will not be earth shattering but I like to think such a **renaissance** is miraculous and an event of significant importance both in beauty and hope. It is a metaphor for never giving up as Churchill once counselled.

Now from Britain to the other side of the world in Victoria Australia at You Yang. It's a national park in central Victoria and was relatively untouched by the bush fires recently. You Yang is a rare area where there is a stable and healthy population of Koalas. Tour operator Echidna_Walkabout keeps a close eye on this **koalition of Koalas'** in the region and report that six joeys have been born, all of whom are around three months old, still tucked inside their mothers' pouches. There are two more on the way, as well. Now after the dreadful fires which killed tens of thousands of Koalas this is brilliant news and represents hope for the future. Australia's koalas are in grave peril across the country and will likely become extinct in SE Queensland thanks to the state and federal government's careless approach to development and land clearing.

These two good news stories capture the 'will of the wild' to survive if given a chance and the promise of a better tomorrow through new beginnings and integrity. I for one am heartened by these wonderful stories of new life..... a renaissance indeed. Now apply these principles of hope to our world and all its problems and realise that things can be better but we have to start with the natural world as this is where it all begins on our fragile beautiful planet. If we appreciate and protect nature it will in the end protect us. Dare I say, that the environment and nature are not listed on the stock exchange nor should they be as they are priceless but we are still paid a regular life giving dividend.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley

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